Improving image of Panchmarhi tourist spot

†4121. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the image of Panchmarhi tourist spot has damaged due to death of students of the Kendriya Vidyalaya after returning from camp in Panchmarhi; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to improve the image of this place ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) As per the information received from the concerned authorities in Madhya Pradesh Government, the image of Panchmarhi does not appear to have suffered damage due to the incident under reference.

(b) Does not arise.

Purchase of Indian Handicrafts by duty free shops from Chandigarh

4122. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some confectionery items particularly chocolates worth Rs. 5 lakhs were purchased for ITDC paid shops on which another Rs. 5 lakhs were paid as duty including chocolates which have expired their life, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether it is a fact that Indian Handicraft items are also being purchased by the Duty Free Shops of ITDC from Chandigarh even when all the State Emporia are located in Delhi if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir. Only one consignment, worth Rs. 1.64 lakhs on which Rs. 1.01 lakhs was paid as Duty, was received and which is still laying unsold. The validity of some stock of this has expired. However, this is totally to be replaced by the supplier as per past practice.

(b) Yes, Sir. ITDC purchased some exclusive Indian handicraft items from Chandigarh because these were specially designed and fabricated to our requirements and supplied on consignment basis.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.